50 Years of a Journey of Friendship
A Celebration of the Golden Jubilee of Nostra Aetate
and
The Mission of the Institute for Jewish-Catholic Relations of Saint Joseph’s University
SECOND VATICAN COUNCIL
DECLARATION ON THE RELATION OF THE CHURCH TO NON-CHRISTIAN RELIGIONS

NOSTRA AETATE

Proclaimed by His Holiness
BLESSED PAUL VI
on October 28, 1965

Nostra aetate, in qua genus humanum in dies arctius unitur et necessitudines inter varios populos augmentur, Ecclesia attentius considerat quae sit sua habitudo ad religiones non-christianas. ...

In our time, when day by day humanity is being drawn closer together, and the ties between different peoples are becoming stronger, the Church examines more closely her relationship to non-Christian religions. ...

[After many centuries, these words began a new relationship between Jews and Catholics:]

As this sacred council searches into the mystery of the Church, it recalls the spiritual ties that link the people of the new covenant to Abraham’s stock.

The Church keeps ever in mind the words of the Apostle [Paul] about his kin: "theirs is the sonship, to them belong the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the worship, and the promises ..." (Rom. 9:4-5)

God holds the Jews most dear for the sake of the patriarchs; God does not take back the gifts God gives or the calls God issues—such is the witness of the Apostle. In company with the Prophets and the same Apostle, the Church awaits that day, known to God alone, on which all peoples will address God in a single voice and "serve the Lord shoulder to shoulder" (Zeph. 3:9).

The Jews should not be presented as rejected or accursed by God, as if this followed from the Holy Scriptures. All should see to it that in catechetical work or in the preaching of the word of God they do not teach anything that does not conform to the truth of the Gospel and the spirit of Christ.

In her rejection of every persecution against any person, the Church, mindful of the legacy she shares with the Jews and moved not by political reasons but by the Gospel’s spiritual love, decrees hatred, persecutions, displays of antisemitism, directed against Jews at any time and by anyone.

Since the spiritual legacy common to Christians and Jews is so great, this sacred council wants to foster and recommend that mutual understanding and respect which is the fruit, above all, of biblical and theological studies as well as of fraternal dialogues.
50 Years of a Journey of Friendship

A Celebration of the Golden Jubilee of Nostra Aetate
and
The Mission of the Institute for Jewish-Catholic Relations of Saint Joseph's University

in collaboration with

American Jewish Committee,
Philadelphia / South Jersey
Archdiocese of Philadelphia
Jewish Community Relations Council of the
Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia

Anti-Defamation League, Eastern Pennsylvania /
Southern New Jersey / Delaware
Board of Rabbis of Greater Philadelphia
World Meeting of Families

Musical Prelude

For the Beauty of the Earth by John Rutter
The Grace Notes, Saint Joseph’s University

Opening Song

Companions on the Journey
by Carey Landry and Carol Jean Kinghorn; adapted lyrics

Refrain:
We are companions on a journey,
In covenant with God above;
And in the words we share is our hope and prayer
for we believe in the love of our God,
We believe in the love of our God.

1. No longer strangers to each other,
But rather friends along the way;
We can be blessings to each other
And be lights for all the world,
And be lights for all the world.¹ (Ref)

2. It is wonderful and pleasant,
Like dew falls from above;
It is wonderful and pleasant,
When kindred live in unity,
When kindred live in unity.² (Ref)

3. Our journey now is one of friendship,
And a genuine gift from God;
It is one of God’s great holy works,
For which we bless God’s holy name,
For which we bless God’s holy name.³ (Ref)

“Our journey of friendship represents one of the fruits of the Second Vatican Council, and particularly of the Declaration Nostra Aetate, whose fiftieth anniversary we celebrate. I am convinced that the progress which has been made in recent decades in the relationship between Jews and Catholics has been a genuine gift of God, one of those great works for which we are called to bless his holy name.”

- Pope Francis

² Psalm 133
³ Pope Francis, "Address to the Chief Rabbis of Israel" (May 26, 2014).
A Special Welcome to:

Ms. Naomi L. Adler, CEO, Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia
Rabbi Howard Alpert, Co-President, Board of Rabbis of Greater Philadelphia
Ms. Nancy Baron-Baer, Regional Director, Anti-Defamation League, Eastern Pennsylvania / Southern New Jersey / Delaware
Ms. Marcia Bronstein, Regional Director, American Jewish Committee, Philadelphia / South Jersey
Msgr. Michael J. Carroll, Director Emeritus, Office of Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs, Archdiocese of Philadelphia
Dr. Philip A. Cunningham, Director, Institute for Jewish-Catholic Relations, Professor of Theology, Saint Joseph’s University
Rev. Dr. C. Kevin Gillespie, S.J., Past President, Saint Joseph’s University
Mr. Andrew Goldman, Chair Emeritus, Anti-Defamation League, Eastern Pennsylvania / Southern New Jersey / Delaware
Dr. Adam L. Gregerman, Assistant Director, Institute for Jewish-Catholic Relations, Assistant Professor of Jewish Studies, Saint Joseph’s University
Dr. (h.c.) Charles Kahn, Jr., Representative, Board of Directors of the Institute for Jewish-Catholic Relations, Saint Joseph’s University
Mr. Marc Kaplin, Chair Emeritus, Anti-Defamation League, Eastern Pennsylvania / Southern New Jersey / Delaware
Mr. Adam Kessler, Director, Jewish Community Relations Council of the Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia
Mr. Joshua Koffman, sculptor, “Synagoga and Ecclesia in Our Time”
Rabbi Jill L. Maderer, Co-President, Board of Rabbis of Greater Philadelphia
Dr. William Madges, Professor of Theology, Saint Joseph’s University
Most Rev. Joseph Martino, Vicar for Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs, Archdiocese of Philadelphia
Mr. Bernard Newman, President, Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia
Dr. Mark C. Reed, President, Saint Joseph’s University
Mr. Daniel Segal, Chair, Jewish Community Relations Council of the Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia.
Mr. Mickey Simon, Chair, American Jewish Committee, Philadelphia/South Jersey
Rabbi Dr. Abraham Skorka, Rector, Seminario Rabinico Latinoamericano
Rabbi David Straus, Member, Board of Directors of the Institute for Jewish-Catholic Relations, Saint Joseph’s University; Co-chair, National Council of Synagogues
Mr. Fred Strober, President, American Jewish Committee, Philadelphia/South Jersey
Greetings

- Master of Ceremonies: Dr. William Madges, Professor of Theology, Saint Joseph’s University
- Dr. Mark Reed, President, Saint Joseph’s University
- Most Rev. Joseph Martino, Vicar for Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs, Archdiocese of Philadelphia
- Ms. Naomi L. Adler, Chief Executive Officer, the Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia

Keynote Address

- Introduction of the Speakers: Dr. Madges
- Keynote: Rabbi Dr. Abraham Skorka, “50 Years of Nostra Aetate: Past and Future”

Rabbi Dr. Abraham Skorka

Rabbi Dr. Abraham Skorka, who holds a doctorate in chemistry, is the Rector of the Seminario Rabinico Latinoamericano Marshall T. Meyer in Buenos Aires, which trains Masorti/Conservative Rabbis, cantors and educators in the Latin American Jewish Community. In addition, he is the Rabbi of the Masorti Olami Community Benei Tikva in Buenos Aires, Argentina. He has published scientific papers in the field of biophysics and numerous articles on Biblical and Talmudic topics.

Archbishop Jorge Bergoglio (the future Pope Francis) and Rabbi Skorka co-authored a book on interfaith dialogue, titled On Heaven and Earth that was published in English in 2013. In addition, they recorded thirty-one television programs moderated by Marcelo Figueroa. Rabbi Skorka was also honored by writing the introduction to Pope Francis' official biography. In 2012, then Cardinal Jorge Bergoglio granted a doctoral degree honoris causa to Rabbi Skorka, on behalf of the Catholic University of Argentina, the first time that a Catholic university in Latin America gave this honor to a rabbi. In May 2014, Rabbi Skorka accompanied the Pope to the Middle East. On this historic pilgrimage, one of the major highlights was their joint prayer for peace with Sheik Omar Abboud at the Western Wall in Jerusalem.

- Response: Dr. Philip A. Cunningham, Director, Institute for Jewish-Catholic Relations, “Charting the Unexplored Paths of Mutuality”

Musical Interlude

- How Good It Is by Lori True
  The Grace Notes, Saint Joseph’s University

Celebrating the Institute for Jewish-Catholic Relations of Saint Joseph’s University

- Dr. (h.c.) Charles Kahn, Jr., for the Board of Directors of the Institute for Jewish-Catholic Relations

Memorializing the New Relationship between Jews and Catholics

- Dr. Adam Gregerman, Assistant Director, Institute for Jewish-Catholic Relations
Dedication of "Synagoga and Ecclesia in Our Time"

All are invited to move outside to the chapel plaza.

- Remarks: Joshua Koffman, Sculptor
- Unveiling of the Sculpture
- Dedication: Rev. Dr. C. Kevin Gillespie, S.J., Past President, Saint Joseph's University
- Prayer: Rabbi David Straus, Co-chair, National Council of Synagogues, Board Member, Institute for Jewish-Catholic Relations of Saint Joseph's University

Concluding Song

Hinei Ma Tov

Hinay ma tov u’ma-nayim
Shevet ach-im gam ya-chad

Behold how good and pleasant it is
For brothers to dwell in unity

Reception

Doyle Banquet Room, Campion Hall

Special Thanks to:

- Noel Koenke, Campus Ministry, Liturgy and Music, SJU
- Patty Brown, violinst
- Diane Hankee, pianist
- Thomas Sheibley, Director of Campus Ministry, SJU
- The Grace Notes
Transforming a Medieval Motif from Enmity to Friendship

In the Middle Ages, the feminine images of Ecclesia (Church) and Synagoga (Synagogue) were a familiar motif in Christian art. They visually represented the inimical understanding of the relationship between Christianity and Judaism that prevailed in that era.

These figures from the Cathedral of Notre Dame de Paris (ca. 1240) are similar to dozens of medieval statues of Synagogue and Church. On the left, Church is crowned and triumphant, bearing the chalice of the Eucharist and a staff of authority. On the right, Synagogue’s crown has fallen, her staff is broken, the tablets of the Law are slipping from her limp hand, and her eyes blindfolded by a serpent. As Mary C. Boys has pointed out, such depictions of the status of Judaism in Cristendom drew upon the biblical Book of Lamentations (1:1; 5:16-17):

How lonely sits the city that once was full of people! How like a widow she has become, she that was great among the nations! She that was a princess among the provinces has become a vassal. The crown has fallen from our head; woe to us, for we have sinned! Because of this our hearts are sick, because of these things our eyes have grown dim.

Such hostile teachings have been repudiated in the post-Nostra Aetate Catholic Church. In our time new images are needed in the light of the journey of friendship between Jews and Catholics that has begun to unfold in the fifty years since the Declaration’s promulgation.

The original sculpture by Joshua Koffman, “Synagoga and Ecclesia in Our Time,” expresses the words of Pope Francis: "There exists a rich complementarity between the Church and the Jewish people that allows us to help one another mine the riches of God’s word." Both feminine figures are crowned and proud of their respective traditions. They are friends in covenant with God learning from one another’s sacred texts and traditions. The sculpture will educate thousands of passersby about the new Jewish-Catholic relationship for decades to come.
Synagoga and Ecclesia in Our Time

The full-size clay version of the original sculpture "Synagoga and Ecclesia in Our Time" by artist Joshua Koffman portrays Jews and Christians as friends and learning partners. It reverses the medieval motif of the crowned and majestic Church triumphing over a defeated, crownless, and blindfolded Synagogue. Fifty years after the 1965 promulgation of the Second Vatican Council declaration Nostra Aetate, Catholics and Jews are able to study and learn together. Evoking the traditional rabbinic chavruta style of studying texts together in pairs, they can explore their covenantal lives with the Holy One in ways that have not been possible for nearly two thousand years. This unprecedented historical situation is the legacy of Nostra Aetate that the final bronze sculpture celebrates.
Saint Joseph’s University offers its deepest gratitude to these benefactors of the *Nostra Aetate* fund:

American Jewish Committee, Philadelphia / South Jersey
Anti-Defamation League,
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*As of September 15, 2015*
The Institute for Jewish-Catholic Relations: 1967 to Today

The October 1965 issuance of Nostra Aetate was warmly welcomed by Philadelphia Catholics and Jews. Almost at once Saint Joseph's College, with the aid of the American Jewish Committee and the support of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia, founded a "Jewish-Catholic Institute" to pursue Nostra Aetate's call for "mutual understanding and respect which is the fruit ... of biblical and theological studies as well as of fraternal dialogues." Known today as the Institute for Jewish-Catholic Relations, it was the first such venture at a Catholic university in the United States in response to the Second Vatican Council.

For over forty years, guided by the late Rev. Donald Clifford, S.J., the Institute pursued the mission of increasing knowledge and deepening understanding between the Jewish and Catholic communities. The Institute hosted conferences, exhibits, dramatic performances and trips to address religious and ethical issues that affect relations between the two communities. For decades the Institute also hosted two major programs annually aimed at raising awareness and encouraging dialogue among different religious groups in the Delaware Valley.

After Fr. Clifford's retirement in 2008, Saint Joseph's University dramatically enhanced the work of the Institute by redefining its directorship as a senior faculty appointment in the Department of Theology and Religious Studies and selecting Philip A. Cunningham, Ph.D. as the first professor to serve in this expanded role. In 2013, Adam Gregerman, Ph.D. was named assistant professor of Jewish Studies and the Institute's assistant director. The Institute for Jewish-Catholic Relations of Saint Joseph's University is thus among very few institutions with both Jewish and Catholic experts serving full-time to promote understanding between the two faith communities.

Today the Institute is committed to academic research and education in Christian-Jewish relations, especially the study of and education about the theologies that have shaped and continue to shape Catholic and Jewish self-understanding in relation to the other community.

It is also dedicated to promoting opportunities for Jews and Catholics to be “study partners,” teaching and learning about themselves and each other by studying and experiencing together texts, rituals, events, and places. It offers courses in interfaith relations through the Department of Theology and Religious Studies and numerous community programs throughout the year.
LOCAL PARTNERSHIPS
The Institute has long-standing collaborative relationships with many local organizations devoted to interfaith relations, including the American Jewish Committee, the Anti-Defamation League, the Archdiocese of Philadelphia, the Consortium of Holocaust Educators of Greater Philadelphia, the Jewish Community Relations Council of the Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia, the Herbert D. Katz Center for Advanced Judaic Studies of the University of Pennsylvania, the Jewish Christian Studies Program at Gratz College, and VAAD, the Board of Rabbis of Greater Philadelphia. It also enjoys strong ties with many synagogue congregations near the University.

RESEARCH AND COLLABORATION NATIONALLY AND INTERNATIONALLY
The Institute cosponsors a number of international studies, one of which led to the publication of the highly praised volume, Christ Jesus and the Jewish People Today: New Explorations of Theological Interrelationships. Currently it is among the university supporters of a five-year research project entitled "Promise, Land, and Hope: Jews and Christians Seeking Understanding to Enable Constructive Dialogue about Israeli-Palestinian Issues," funded principally by the International Council of Christians and Jews.

INSTITUTE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
The Board of Directors of the Institute consists of about thirty members, with a roughly equal number of Jews and Christians. Board members are selected because of their commitment to the mission of the Institute and their ability and desire to advance its work. Board members advise the directors on the focus and direction of the Institute, create strategies for management and development, serve as consultants for various projects and initiatives, and assist in the establishment of Institute priorities.

ABOUT THE DIRECTORS
Philip A. Cunningham, Ph.D. is Professor of Theology in the Department of Theology and Religious Studies, specializing in Christian-Jewish Relations. He currently serves as president of the International Council of Christians and Jews and as secretary-treasurer of the Council of Centers on Jewish-Christian Relations. He is webmaster of the CCJR’s online resource supersite Dialogika (www.dialogika.us). The author of many books and articles on biblical studies, religious education, and theologies of Christian-Jewish relations, his most recent book is Seeking Shalom: The Journey to Right Relationship between Catholics and Jews (Eerdmans, 2015).

Adam Gregerman, Ph.D. is Assistant Professor of Jewish Studies in the Department of Theology and Religious Studies. With training in classical Jewish and Christian sources, he studies the relationship between the two traditions from antiquity to today. He serves on the Board of Directors of the Council of Centers on Jewish-Christian Relations and is reviews editor for its scholarly journal, Studies in Christian-Jewish Relations. An academic consultant to national Jewish groups on interreligious affairs, he is also a member of the Committee on Ethics, Religion, and the Holocaust at the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum. He is the author of many articles and of the forthcoming book Building on the Ruins of the Temple: Apologetics and Polemics in Early Christianity and Rabbinic Judaism (Mohr Siebeck, 2016).
Mission Statement

As Philadelphia’s Jesuit Catholic University, Saint Joseph’s provides a rigorous, student-centered education rooted in the liberal arts. We prepare students for personal excellence, professional success, and engaged citizenship. Striving to be an inclusive and diverse community that educates and cares for the whole person, we encourage and model lifelong commitment to thinking critically, making ethical decisions, pursuing social justice, and finding God in all things.

Overview

Founded by the Society of Jesus in 1851, Saint Joseph’s University advances the professional and personal ambitions of men and women by providing a demanding, yet supportive, educational experience. Saint Joseph’s has three principal academic colleges – the College of Arts and Sciences, the Erivan K. Haub School of Business and the College of Professional and Liberal Studies/Haub Degree Completion. In total, Saint Joseph’s University offers over 55 undergraduate day majors and 50 minors and over 30 degree completion and certificate programs including online options. Graduate programs (in business or arts and sciences) include over 40 areas of study with many programs offering both campus-based and online delivery options. Special programs include Study Abroad, Honors program, Cooperative Education Program, Summer Scholars, Service-Learning, and Faith-Justice Studies.

Saint Joseph’s University is characterized by a profound and deeply personal Jesuit principle called the Magis (pronounced màh-jis). Roughly translated, it means “more.” It means doing more, being more and achieving more than originally thought possible. More simply put, magis calls us to live greater.